

GREAT HARWOOD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For 1915.

ST. HUBERT'S LODGE,

GREAT HARWOOD,

March 13th, 1916.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Great Harwood Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have honour in again presenting to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of your District, along with the returns of Births and Deaths for the year ending, December 31st, 1915, along with Local Government Board Forms 1, 2, 3, 4, and Form C. for the Lancashire County Council.

The population of the District in 1880 was 6,281, and at the last Census 13,815. The present estimated population is 13,800.

During the year 235 births have been registered, viz :—115 Boys and 120 Girls. Estimating the population at 13,800, this gives a yearly birthrate of 17 per 1,000 of the inhabitants. The Birthrate for 1914 was 22·21, and for the five previous years, 19 5.

The deaths during the same period numbered 172, viz : 83 Males and 89 Females. This gives an Annual Deathrate of 12·46 per thousand of the population.

13 of these deaths, however, occurred outside the District, leaving 159, or a Deathrate of 11 actually occurring in Great Harwood.

The Deathrate for 1914 was 11·14 per 1,000, and for the five previous years, 11·26.

The ages at which death occurred were :—

Under 1 year of age...	...	..	...	...	...	19
Between 1 and 2 years of age	9
" 2 " 5	10
" 5 " 15	3
" 15 " 25	11
" 25 " 45	20
" 45 " 65	52
65 years of age and over	48
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Total						172

The Deathrate amongst children, under one year of age per 1,000 births was 80·85, compared with 96·46 during 1914, and for the five previous years 97.

The causes of death in children under one year of age were :—

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhœa	..	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	2
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	3
Collapse of Lung	..	...	...	...	...	1
						<hr/> 19

The causes of death at all ages were :—

Various Diseases of the Respiratory Organs	...	40
Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases	...	17
Various Cancerous Diseases	...	8
Diseases of Heart	...	25
Diarrhœa	..	2
Premature Birth	...	3
Influenza	...	2
Whooping Cough	..	5
Enteric Fever	...	1
Diphtheria	...	3
Measles	...	2
Bright's Disease	...	3
Appendicitis	...	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage and Apoplexy	...	17
Senile Decay	...	10
Meningitis	...	4
Marasmus	...	2
Congenital Malformations	...	3
Other causes not necessary to particularise	...	23
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Total	...	172

33 persons have died who were 70 years of age and over ; one of whom had reached the advanced age of 87, three 80, and one each 81, 84, 85, and 86 years respectively.

During the year the following cases of Zymotic Disease have been notified to me, viz : Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 20 ; other Tuberculous Diseases, 2 ; Scarlet Fever, 24 ; Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup, 11 ; Erysipelas, 8 ; Enteric Fever, 4 ; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1 ; Total, 70.

21 deaths have occurred during the year from Zymotic Diseases, viz : 15 Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2 Other Tuberculous Diseases, 3 Diphtheria, and 1 Enteric Fever.

The Zymotic Deathrate is 1.5 per 1,000, against a Deathrate of 1.35 in 1914 and 1.28 in 1913.

Although there were 24 cases of Scarlet Fever notified no deaths have occurred.

Whenever an infectious disease is notified, the house is visited disinfectant supplied, verbal and printed instructions given with regard to isolation and prevention of the spread of the disease, and if possible the source of origin traced.

After each case, disinfection by fumigation of the room and its contents, bedding, clothing, &c., is carried out 58 cases have been treated during the year.

In cases of Tuberculosis the same action is taken, and a copy of the instructions issued by the Local Government Board supplied, but the removal of a patient to a Sanatorium is vested in the County Tuberculosis Medical Officer.

With regard to the Notification of Births Act which came into force on September 1st, 1915, and Child Welfare, the Council appointed a Lady Health Visitor in December 1915. She commenced her duties on January 1st, 1916.

The arrangements made with the Accrington Corporation whereby infected bedding, clothing, &c., can be conveyed and disinfected at their disinfecting station are still in operation.

During the Summer months (when diarrhoea is apt to make its appearance) handbills were circulated giving instructions with regard to cleanliness and limewashing, and the protection of food from flies, &c.

The following is a statement of the closet accommodation in the District :—

Pail Closets (out-districts)	...	...	36
Earthenware Tanks	...	..	120
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	412
Waste Water Closets	...	...	2695
Total			3263

The Sewage undergoes treatment by continuous precipitation and irrigation at the Clayton-le-Moors and Great Harwood Joint Outfall Sewage Works.

The removal of nightsoil refuse, ashes, &c., and the scavenging of the town has been efficiently carried out under the supervision of your Inspector of Nuisances.

The Factories and Workshops have on inspection been found to be in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

The registered lodging house in Delph Road (for men only) has been periodically visited, and generally found in a satisfactory state.

We have two Slaughter-houses in the town, a public one belonging to the Council, and the other one owned by the Great Harwood Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd., and both are under the constant supervision of myself and the Inspector of Nuisances.

The Tripe Boiling Works, which are the property of the Council are frequently inspected and are kept clean and sanitary.

The Sanitary condition of the Schools is satisfactory. Disinfectants are supplied to the caretakers for the purpose of flushing the closets, drains, cleaning school floors, &c.

The Dairies and Cowsheds have been found on inspection to be fairly satisfactory, although several require structural alterations respecting dairies, light and ventilation, drainage, middensteads, and cubic capacity in the shippons.

The milk is excellent, being particularly wholesome, free from adulteration, and kept and distributed under cleanly conditions.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Act 23 houses have been inspected and many defects were found, consisting of low ceilings, fixed windows, plaster off the walls, defective paving in the back-yards, &c.

32 houses have been erected in the District during the year.

During the month of December a Sanitary Inspector from the County Council made an inspection throughout the District, including Cowsheds, Workshops, Bakehouses, and all matters relating to the Sanitary administration of the District, and in due course will present his report to the Council.

I consider the deathrate very low for a manufacturing district, and will bear favourable comparison with most Lancashire Towns and Urban Districts.

In conclusion, I congratulate you on the satisfactory sanitary condition, and I earnestly thank you for the encouragement and support which you have always given me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN PATCHETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

